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Amendment Dated March 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2004

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Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-21 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 7 is cancelled.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Miyashita et al. This rejection is overcome by amending claim 1 to include,

(b) converting, at the remote location, the text files stored in step (a) into speech files and storing the converted speech files; [and]

(d) retrieving the requested portion from the stored converted speech files and transmitting to the information appliance the portion of the speech files requested in step (c).

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at paragraphs [0019]-[0020], [0041] and [0048]. With regard to claim 1, Miyashita et al. do not disclose or suggest storing the converted speech files at the remote location and, extracting from memory or requested portions of the speech files. Miyashita et al. disclose a terminal device that receives text as electronic mail, converts the text to speech and outputs the converted speech to a telephone device. (See col. 16, lines 30 et seq.) Miyashita et al. do not store converted speech files or enable the user to extract portions of converted speech files. Rather, Miyashita et al. store text data, convert the text data to speech and provide the converted speech to the telephone 6 as it is converted. The present invention has advantages over Miyashita et al. because it allows multiple requests for data to be handled in parallel. Because the present invention stores the converted speech signals, requests for portions of the speech signals may be handled in parallel by simply transferring the requested data from memory. Using the device disclosed by Miyashita et al., however, multiple requests would need to be handled in series because an interruption in the text-to-speech processor would produce undesirable pause artifacts in the reproduced voice signals.

Because Miyashita et al. do not disclose or suggest these limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Miyashita et al. Claim 6 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Miyashita et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 2-4, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Miyashita et al and Hong et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claims 1 and 11. In particular, neither Miyashita et al., Hong et al., nor their

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combination disclose or suggest storing the converted speech files at the remote location and extracting a portion of the speech files in response to a request and transmitting the extracted portion to the information appliance. Miyashita et al. is described above. Hong et al. includes an electronic program device which allows a user to watch a program image as well as a character guide. In Hong et al., the programming guide text may be applied to a voice synthesizer to be reproduced using speakers. (Col. 7, lines 1-16). Hong et al. however, do not store any speech files at a remote location after they are synthesized. Hong et al. only stores the text information from the electronic programming guide. Because neither Miyashita et al., nor Hong et al. disclose the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Hong et al. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, these claims are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Hong et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

With regard to claim 11, claim 11, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claim 11 is also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 13-14 depend from claim 11. Thus, claims 13-14 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Miyashita et al. and Oh. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 1. In particular, neither Miyashita et al., Oh, nor their combination disclose or suggest storing speech files at a remote location and extracting and transmitting requested portions of the speech files to the information appliance. Miyashita et al. is described above. In Oh, a multiple language text to speech processing apparatus is used to convert multiple language text into audio wave data. (see Col. 1, line 55 - Col. 2, line 5) Oh does not suggest storing the converted speech files at a remote location or extracting and transmitting requested portions of the speech files to an information appliance. Because neither Miyashita et al., nor Oh disclose the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Oh. Claim 5 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 5 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Oh for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 7-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Miyashita et al. and Houser et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to

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claim 1. In particular, neither Miyashita et al., Houser et al, nor their combination disclose or suggest storing converted speech files at a remote location or extracting and transmitting requested portions of the stored speech files to an information appliance. Miyashita et al. is described above. Houser et al. uses a speech recognition system at a terminal unit for implementing spoken control of devices. Utterances are received from a user and processed to implement tasks at the terminal unit. (see Col. 23, lines 38-50) The invention in Houser et al. does not convert text to speech files. Instead, it converts speech to text. Thus Houser can not disclose or suggest the storage of converted speech files as required by amended claim 1. Because neither Miyashita et al., Houser et al. nor their combination disclose the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Oh. Claims 7-8 and 10 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 7-8 and 10 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Houser et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Miyashita et al and Cannon et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 1. In particular, neither Miyashita et al., Cannon et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest storing the converted speech files at a remote location or extracting and transmitting requested portions of the speech files to an information appliance. Miyashita et al. is described above. The invention in Cannon et al. allows a user to program a VCR when away from the house via a telephone which has been adapted for programming the VCR. (see Col. 3, lines 20-40) Cannon et al. do not disclose or suggest storing converted speech files or extracting, from memory, requested portions of the speech files. Because neither Miyashita et al., nor Cannon et al. disclose the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Cannon et al. Claim 9 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. and Cannon et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Miyashita et al., Hong et al. and Houser et al. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendments to claim 11. In particular, as set forth above, neither Miyashita et al., Hong et al., Houser et al. nor their combination disclose or suggest storing the converted speech files at a remote location or extracting and transmitting requested portions of the speech files to an information appliance. Because neither Miyashita et al., Hong et al., Houser et al nor their combination

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disclose the limitations of claim 11, claim 11 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. Hong et al., and Houser et al. Claim 12 depends from claim 11. Accordingly, claim 12 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al., Hong et al., and Houser et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

X Claims 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Hong et al. and Houser et al. This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither Hong et al., Houser et al. nor their combination disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 15. In particular, neither Hong et al., Houser et al. nor their combination disclose or suggest a processor responsive to the input commands accepted by a receiver for extracting a portion of the speech files stored in a memory device and sending the extracted portion of the speech files to the audio speaker. Hong et al. and Houser et al. are described above. Because neither Hong et al., Houser et al. nor their combination disclose the limitations of claim 15, claim 15 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hong et al. and Houser et al. Claims 16-19 depend from claim 15. Accordingly, claims 16-19 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hong et al. and Houser et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Hong et al., Houser et al. and Oh. This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither Hong et al., Houser et al., Oh nor their combination disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 15. Hong et al., Houser et al. and Oh are described above. Because neither Hong et al., Houser et al., Oh, nor their combination disclose the limitations of claim 15, claim 15 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hong et al., Houser et al. and Oh. Claim 20 depends from claim 15. Accordingly, claim 20 not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hong et al., Houser et al. and Oh for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Miyashita et al., Hong et al. and Houser et al. This ground for rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither Miyashita et al., Hong et al., Houser et al. nor their combination disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 15. Miyashita et al., Hong et al. and Houser et al. are described above. Because neither Miyashita et al., Hong et al., Houser et al. nor their combination disclose the limitations of claim 15, claim 15 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al. Hong et al., and Houser et al. Claim 21 depends from claim 15. Accordingly,

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claim 21 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Miyashita et al., Hong et al., and Houser et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-21.

Respectfully submitted,


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